



Summer 2021



Tackling Trauma

The recent unrest in Jerusalem affected many Palestinian families who come to the Spafford Children's Center. The teachers, social workers, and speech and occupational therapists at SCC have long been trained to recognize the signs of trauma. Now SCC is going further and adding the skills of a **Trauma Specialist** to work directly with children and families who show signs of trauma.

Children who come to SCC have seen the police or military arrest their brothers or sisters, stop their parents on the street, search their backpacks as they go to school, spray 'skunk water' on groups of Palestinians, or threaten them with military guns. Their fears are real and can lead children to be nervous, to jump at sounds, to think constantly about violence, and to wonder if it will ever end. They may even feel that they cannot trust anyone outside of their family. With your support, SCC helps these children and families understand trauma, and develops a plan to reduce its effects through the services provided and the safe and nurturing environment that is the Spafford Children's Center.



Masks Off—Fun On

The masks are off....and the Spafford Children's Center is bursting with learning and fun. Here a girl in speech therapy learns to feel the movement of sounds by putting one hand on her own jaw and the other on the therapist's jaw. Another

picture shows children in Arabic class using flashcards to learn words, letters, and sounds. English letters and numbers become clearer using clever learning aids with physical letters and numbers that the child can use to make words. Even math is understandable with the help of the SCC teachers. All teachers use an individualized plan that identifies the strengths and needs of each child.





If Ever Palestinian Kids Needed Summer Camp...

...this is the year. For three weeks in July, five hours a day, kids ages 6 to 11 are gathering at the Spafford Children's Center to enjoy games, competitions, and art extravaganzas mixed with lessons in teamwork and cooperation. Youth, many who grew up attending SCC courses, have been trained to be camp counselors to help the teachers. Palestinian kids who have endured months of school closures and limited online learning need to let loose and have fun. Add the educational delays to the trauma they have experienced in the recent past, and throughout their lives, and the need for a structured outlet is clear. Is there anything more fun than making clay animals, creating art projects, and playing kickball in the Spafford courtyard?

The AFSCC is run by volunteers; donations from board members pay the expenses for printing and mailing newsletters plus fees for online giving. Therefore, all of your donation goes to provide services for the children served by the SCC.

Please send a tax-deductible contribution in the envelope provided (note our new mailing address) or go to:

Global Giving at <https://goto.gg/31839>

or

PayPal at www.spaffordcenter.org

Wishing you a wonderful summer,

The Rev. Canon Matthew Dayton-Welch,
Chair

Wendy Whiting Blome, PhD,
Secretary/Treasurer

